

Bear

Etymology: from Middle English *bere*, from Old English *bera*; akin to Old English *br+un* brown. (Source: m-v.com)

Definition: a large, strong wild animal with a thick furry coat that lives in colder parts of Europe, Asia and North America

Forms: *pl.* bears

Related words: *adj.* bearish; *n.* teddy bear; *v.* to bear; *n.* bear hug

Fluency Practice: *I've never been to Big Bear Mountain,*

But I hear the bears there dine in bistros besides beautiful fountains.

Bears bathe in bubble baths and enjoy ballet.

They even barbeque and go boating all day.

Some have big bikes; others have cars.

Boy! Bears have the best life by far.

Phonics and Vocabulary Activities

Beginning Display the photo card and say: *Have you seen bears at the zoo or in movies?* Allow students to briefly describe what they have seen and experienced. Then write the word *bear* on the board. Slowly pronounce each sound /b/-/e/-/r/. Ask students to repeat the sounds with you and blend the word together. Ask volunteers to name other words with the sound /b/ and list them on the board. Call for volunteers to pronounce the words and circle the letter *b* at the beginning of each word.

Intermediate Show students the photo card. Ask them which word best describes the animal shown on the card. After students identify the key word *bear*, have them spell it. Have volunteers use the word in complete sentences. You may use this photo card to practice homophones. Dictate to students the sentence *The bear has to bear living in captivity.* Verify spelling of the homophones. Point out that the action word *to bear* in this context means to put up with.

Advanced Show students the photo card. Ask them which word best describes the animal shown on the card. After students identify the key word *bear* have volunteers use the word in complete sentences. Introduce students to the compound word *bear hug*. Have them explain in complete sentences how the meaning of *bear* helps to determine the meaning of *bear hug*. Ask volunteers to use the compound word in a sentence.